

A ROGUE'S END: BENEATH THE DARK LORD'S GAZE

STAR WARS™
DOCTOR APHRA

MARVEL

037

SPURRIER
WIJNGAARD
LOUGHRIDGE



Ashley H. Walth '19

A ROGUE'S END

Part I

Rogue archaeologist Doctor Aphra is known across the galaxy as a brilliant scientist as well as a thief and obtainer of ancient valuable artifacts—which has earned her the ire of both the Rebellion and Empire.

Recently, Doctor Aphra exposed a traitorous plot to assassinate Emperor Palpatine. This saved her life as well as the life of her sidekick of sorts, Vulaada, and also earned great favor with the regime.

But Aphra's complicated history with Palpatine's enforcer, Darth Vader, could ruin the doctor's second chance....

SIMON SPURRIER
Writer

CASPAR WIJNGAARD
Artist

LEE LOUGHRIDGE
Colorist

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
Lettering

ASHLEY WITTER
Cover Artist

JODIE MUIR
Greatest Moments
Variant Cover Artist

TOM GRONEMAN
Assistant Editor

MARK PANICCIA
Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
Editor In Chief

JOE QUESADA
Chief Creative Officer

DAN BUCKLEY
President

Very Special Thanks
KIERON GILLEN

For Lucasfilm:

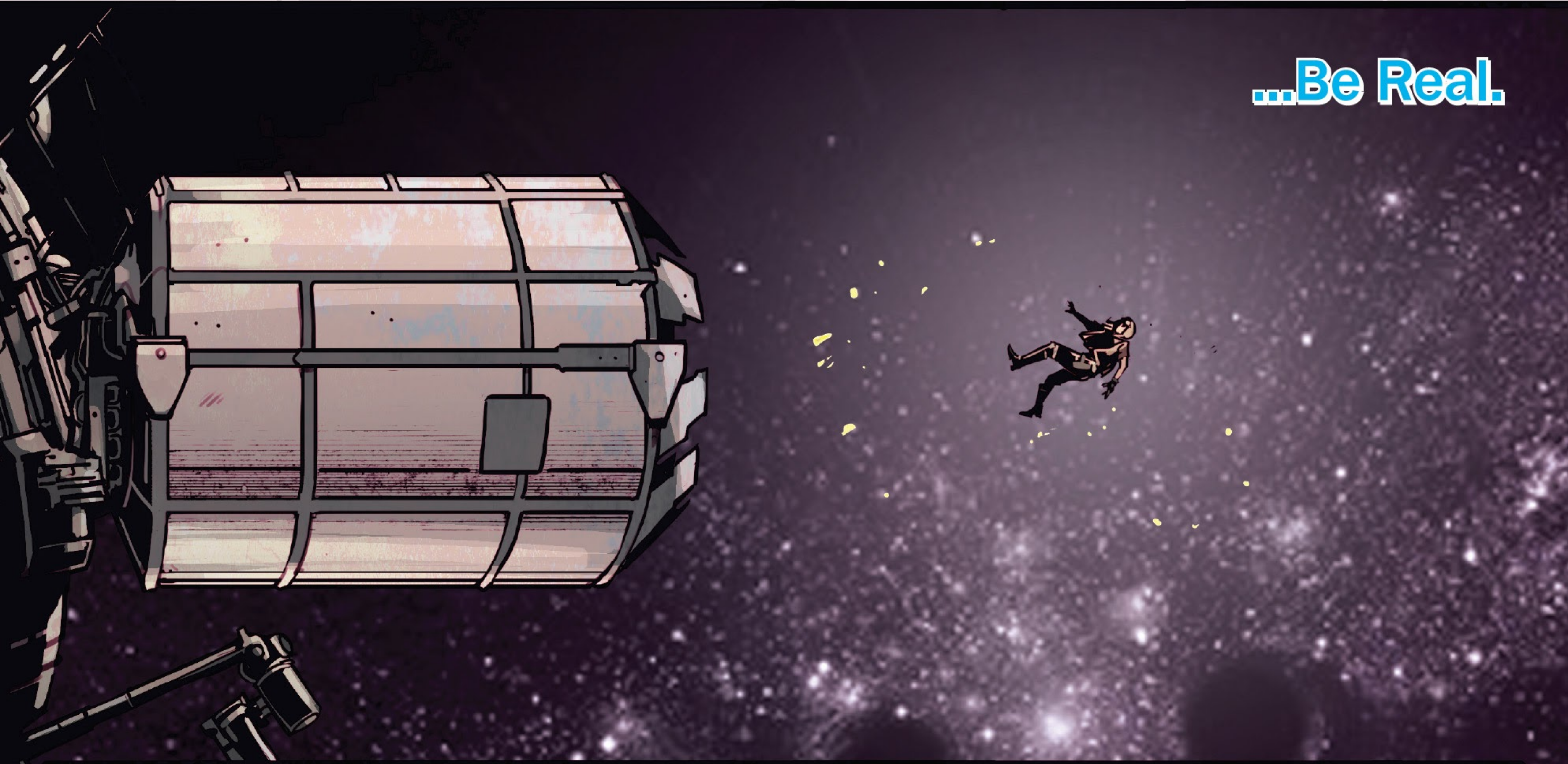
Senior Editor ROBERT SIMPSON

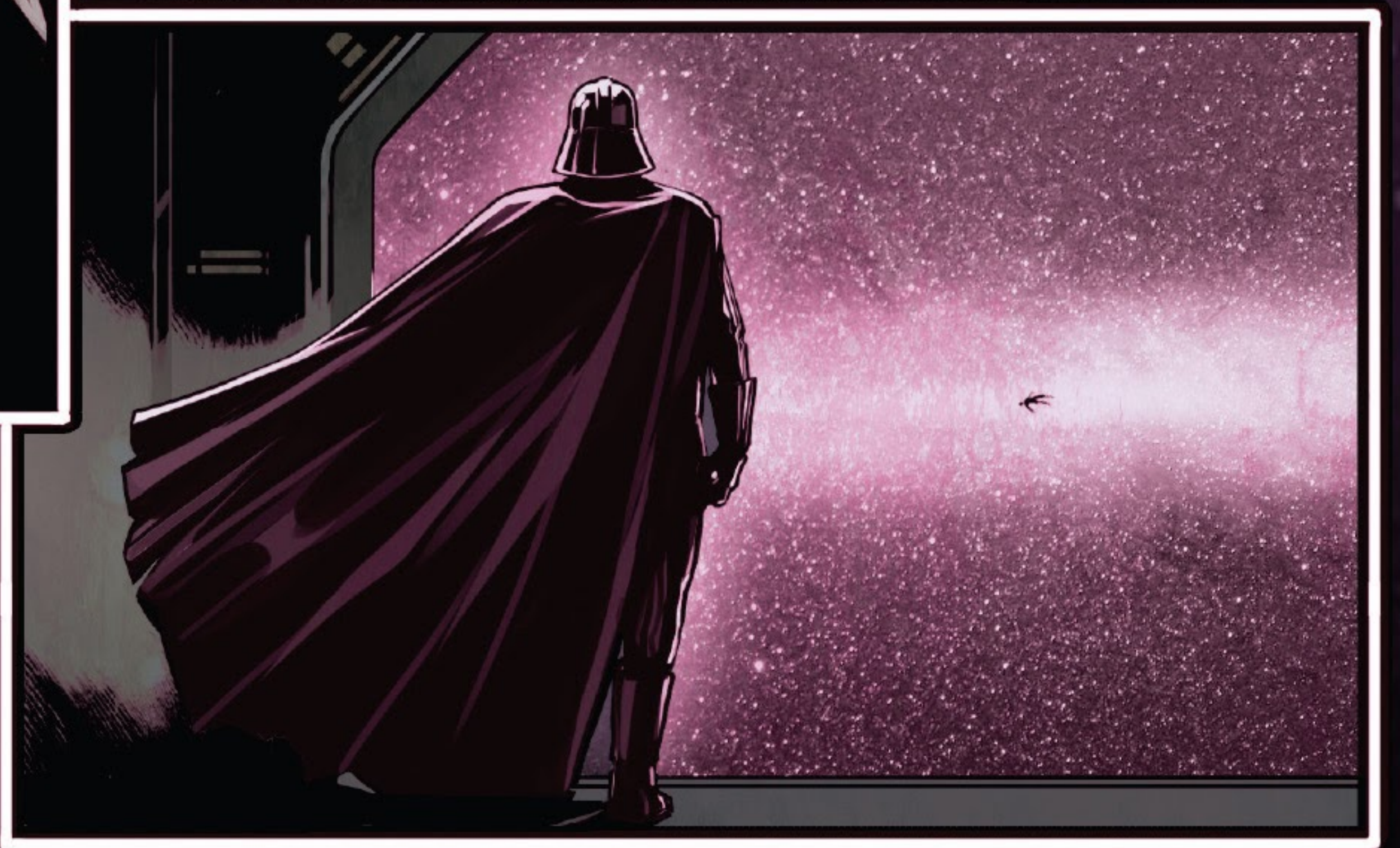
Creative Director MICHAEL SIGLAIN

**Lucasfilm Story Group PABLO HIDALGO, MATT MARTIN
& EMILY SHKOUKANI**

Lucasfilm Art Department PHIL SZOSTAK

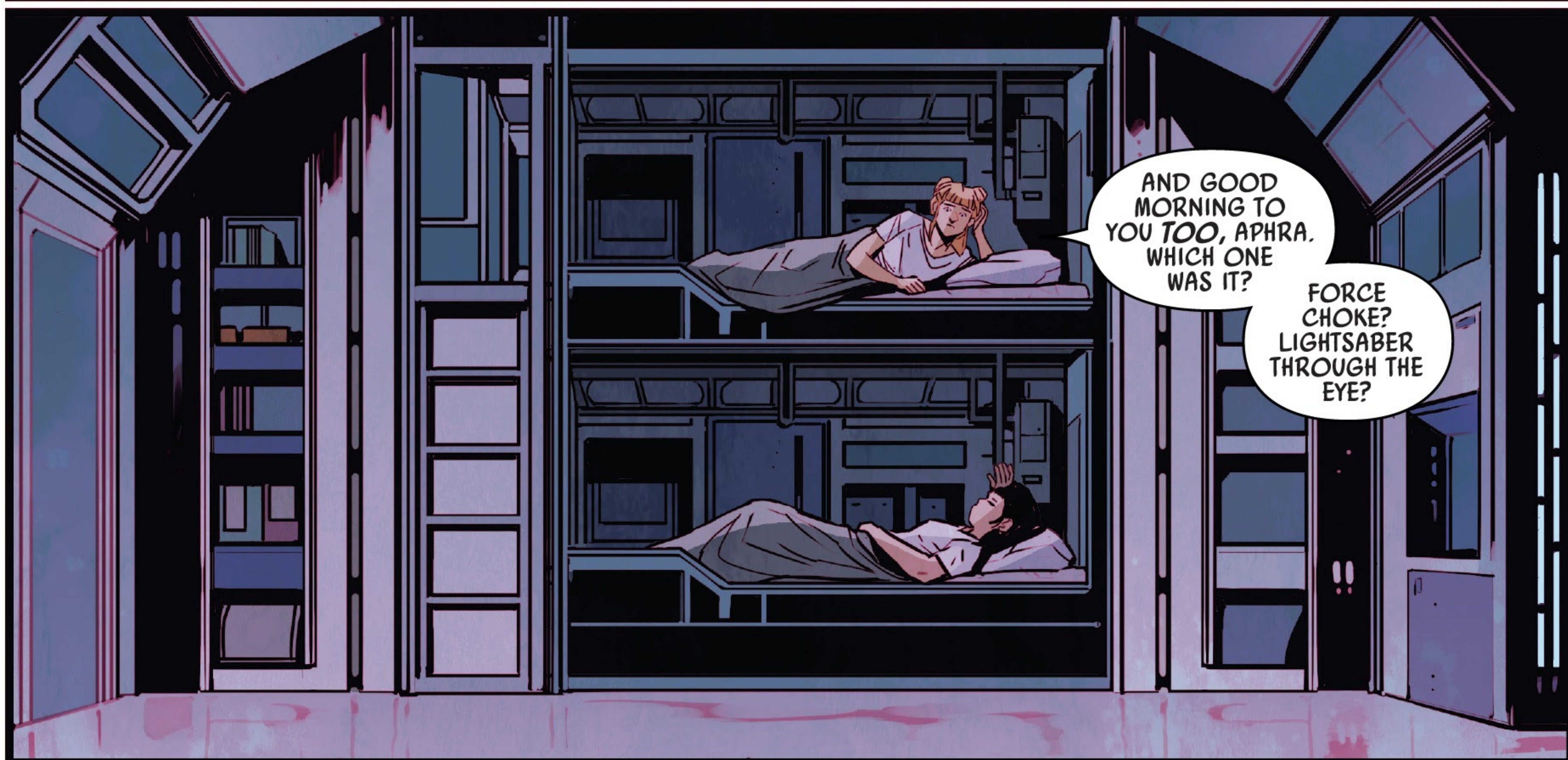






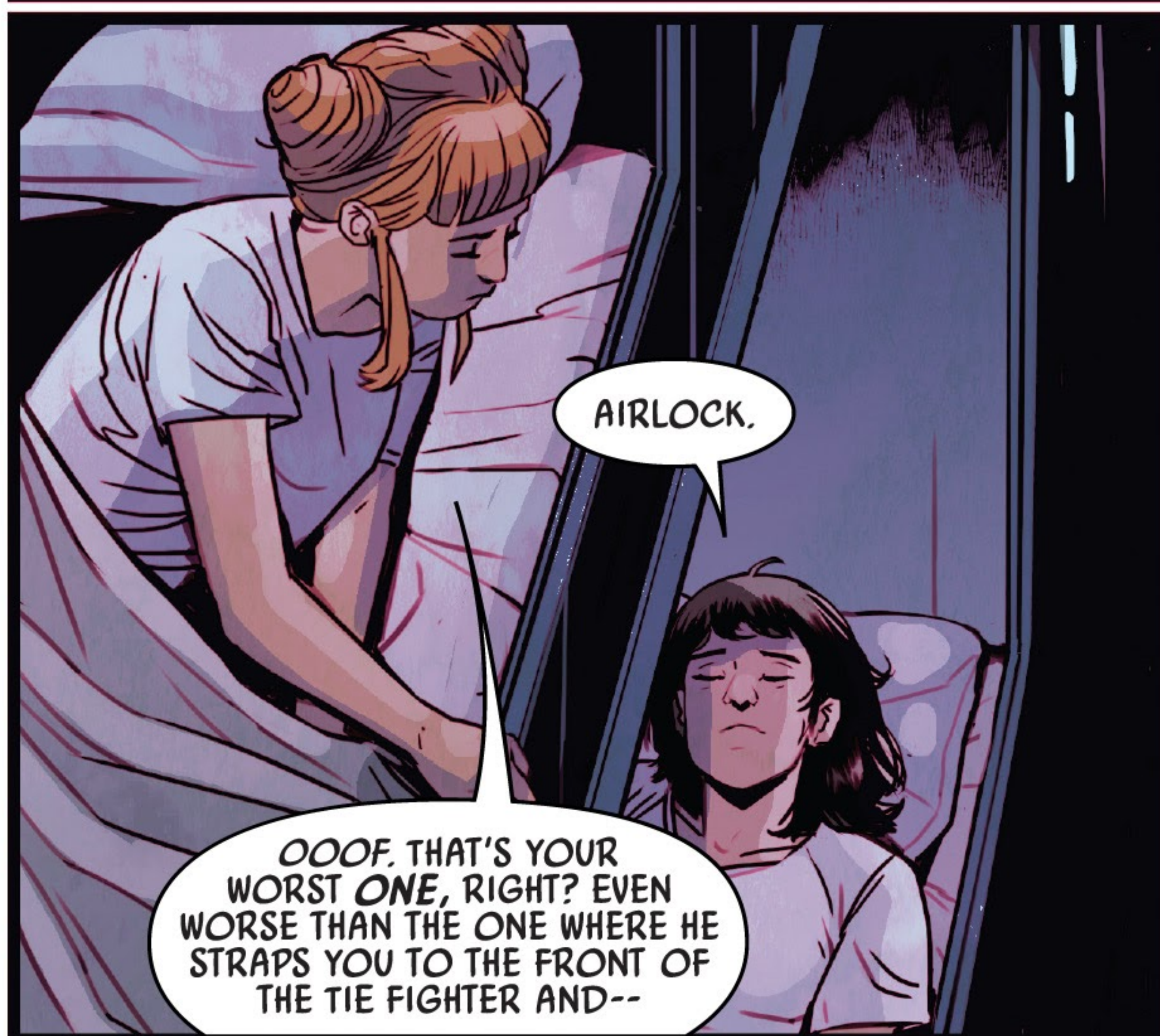


EEEEEEIIINGHH--!



AND GOOD MORNING TO YOU TOO, APHRA. WHICH ONE WAS IT?

FORCE CHOKE? LIGHTSABER THROUGH THE EYE?



AIRLOCK.

OOOF. THAT'S YOUR WORST ONE, RIGHT? EVEN WORSE THAN THE ONE WHERE HE STRAPS YOU TO THE FRONT OF THE TIE FIGHTER AND--



YES, VULAADA--THANK YOU. EVEN WORSE THAN THAT.

WELL, I'D SAY YOU OUGHTA GET MORE SLEEP, BUT-- WE BOTH KNOW YOU WON'T.

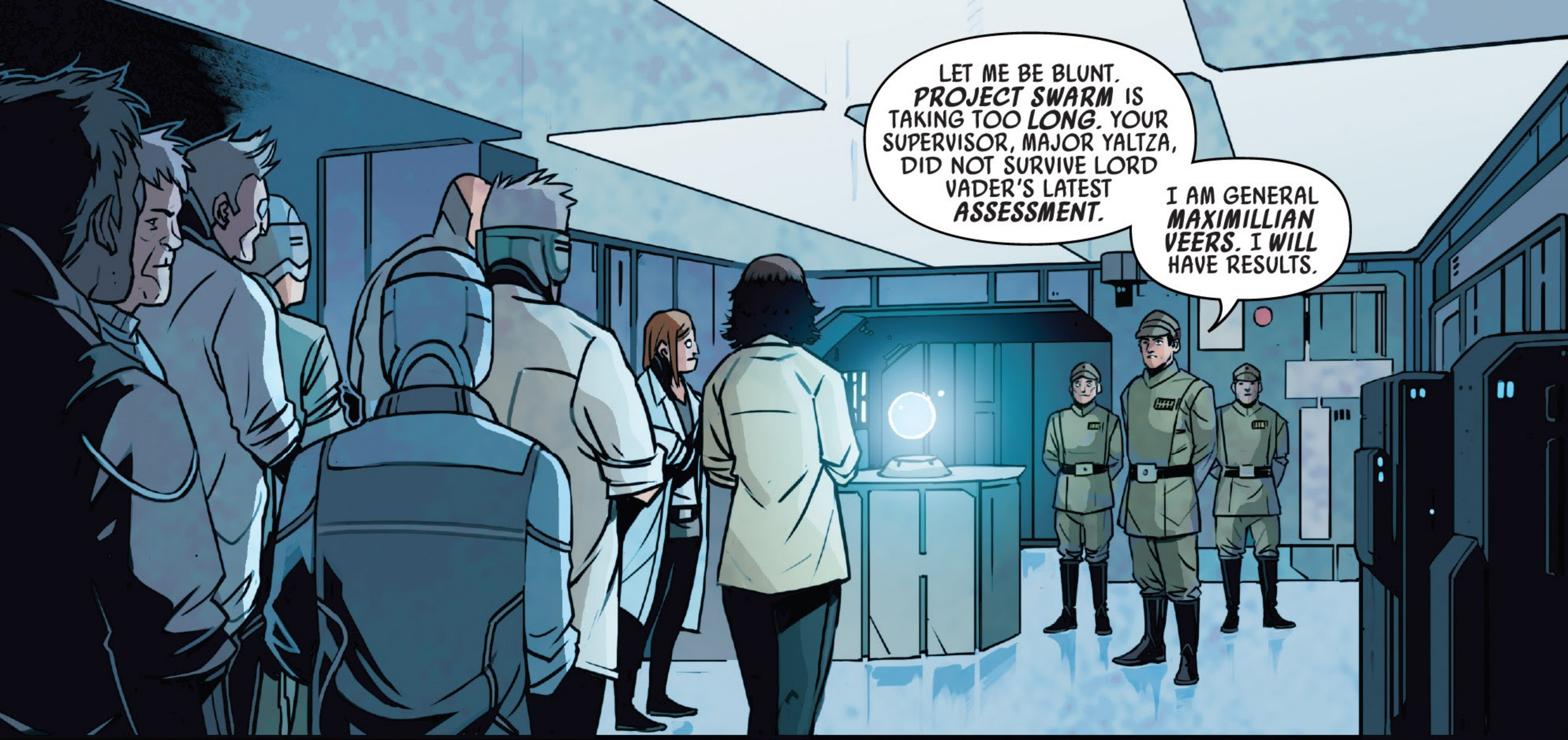
LUCKY FOR YOU, SHIFT STARTS IN TWENTY MINUTES ANYWAY. SO--

"--WELCOME TO
ANOTHER FUN-FILLED
DAY IN THE EMPEROR'S
SERVICE."

The *Executor*.
Lord Vader's Flagship.
Arkanis Sector.

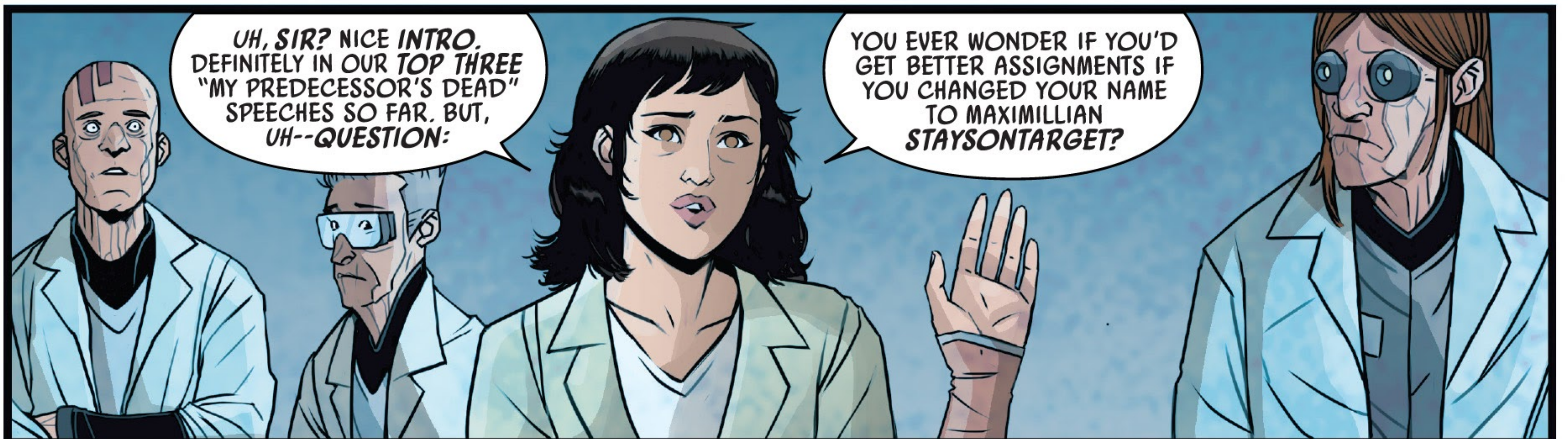
ATTENNNN-
SHUN!
GENERAL ON
DECK!





LET ME BE BLUNT. **PROJECT SWARM** IS TAKING TOO LONG. YOUR SUPERVISOR, MAJOR YALTZA, DID NOT SURVIVE LORD VADER'S LATEST **ASSESSMENT**.

I AM GENERAL **MAXIMILLIAN VEERS**. I WILL HAVE RESULTS.



UH, SIR? NICE **INTRO**. DEFINITELY IN OUR **TOP THREE** "MY PREDECESSOR'S DEAD" SPEECHES SO FAR. BUT, UH--**QUESTION**:

YOU EVER WONDER IF YOU'D GET BETTER ASSIGNMENTS IF YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME TO **MAXIMILLIAN STAYSONTARGET**?



THE ONE I TOLD YOU ABOUT, SIR.

AH. **APHRA**. OUR RESIDENT **HEROINE**. THAT'S AN EXTREMELY **WITTY** JOKE, DOCTOR. HA. HA. HA.

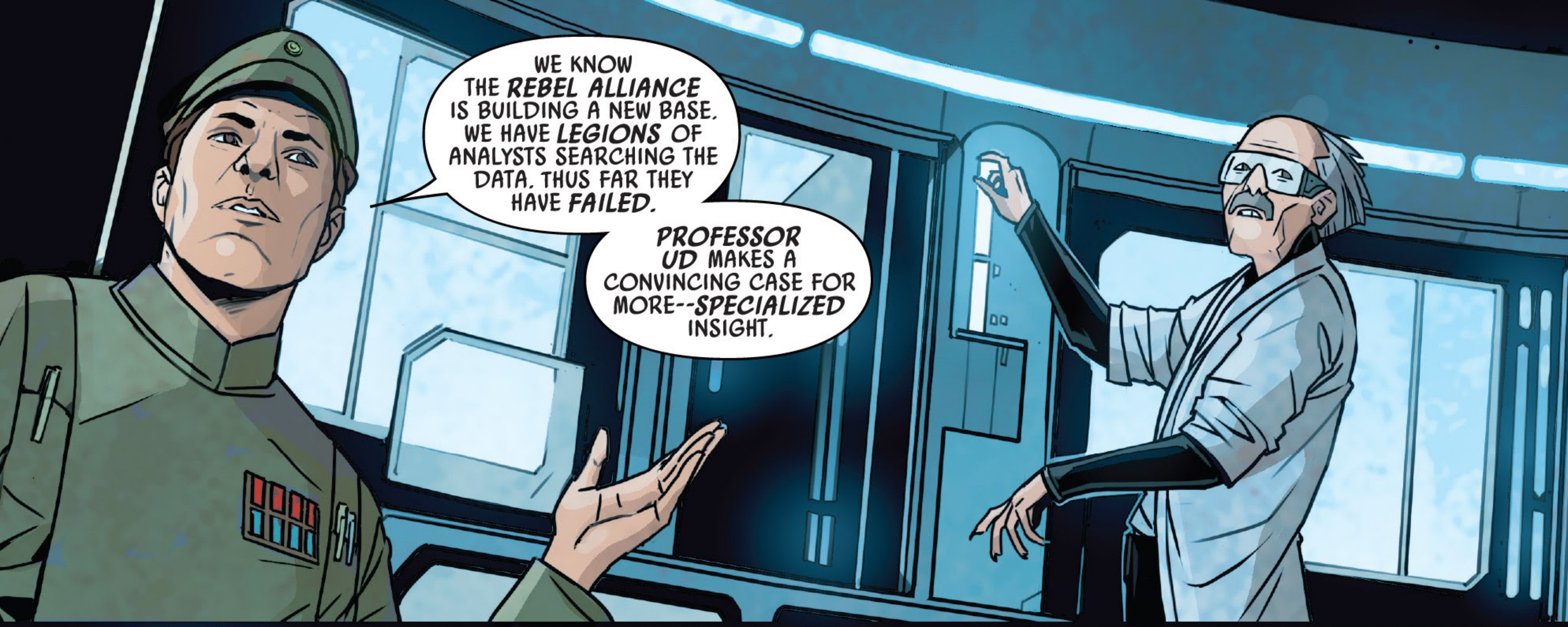
I LIKE WIT.



IN THE RIGHT **CONTEXT**, OF COURSE.

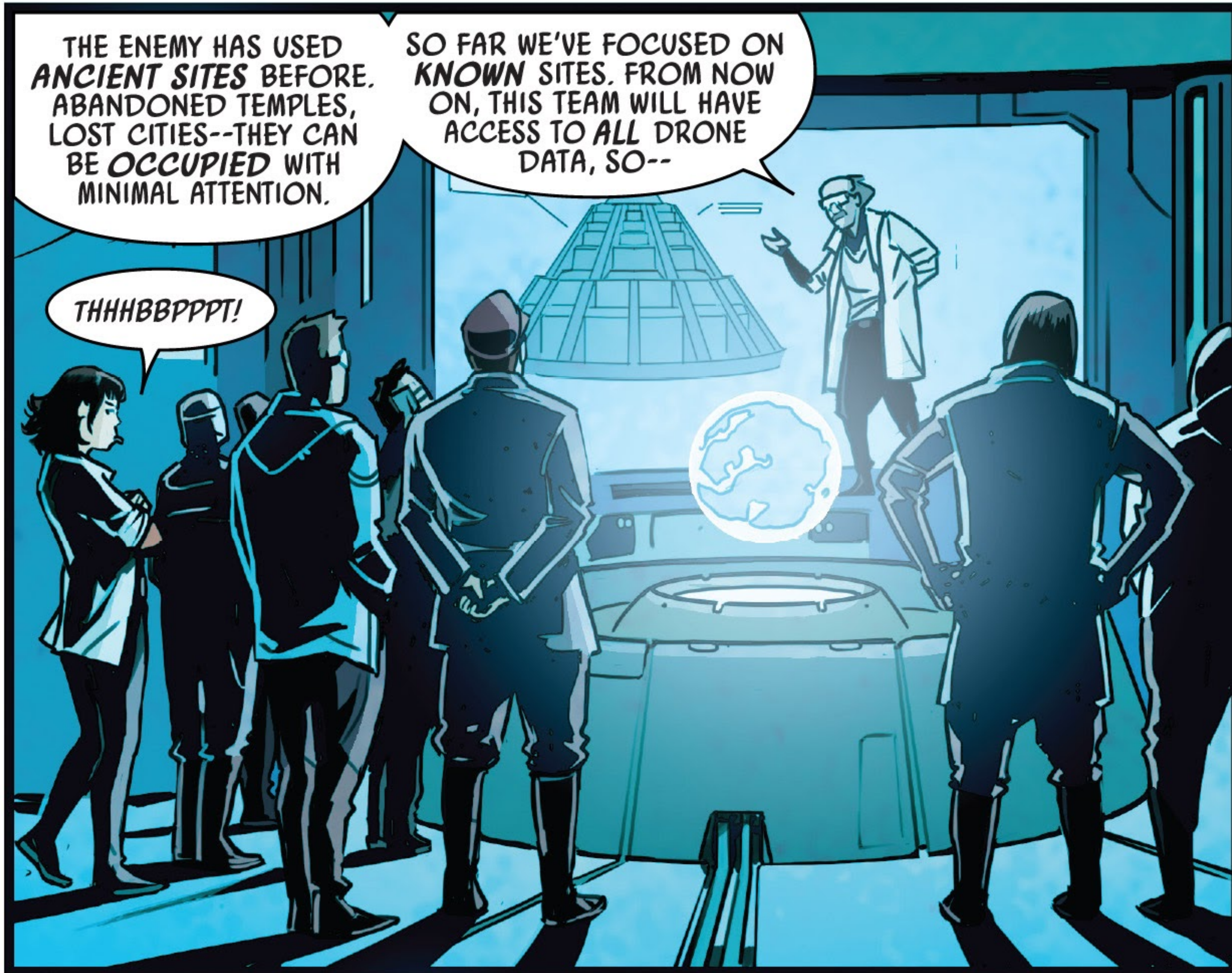


NOW THEN. AS OF THIS MORNING, **PROJECT SWARM** HAS DISPATCHED **700,000 VIPER DROIDS**.



WE KNOW
THE **REBEL ALLIANCE**
IS BUILDING A NEW BASE.
WE HAVE **LEGIONS** OF
ANALYSTS SEARCHING THE
DATA. THUS FAR THEY
HAVE **FAILED**.

PROFESSOR
UD MAKES A
CONVINCING CASE FOR
MORE--**SPECIALIZED**
INSIGHT.



THE ENEMY HAS USED
ANCIENT SITES BEFORE.
ABANDONED TEMPLES,
LOST CITIES--THEY CAN
BE **OCCUPIED** WITH
MINIMAL ATTENTION.

SO FAR WE'VE FOCUSED ON
KNOWN SITES. FROM NOW
ON, THIS TEAM WILL HAVE
ACCESS TO **ALL DRONE**
DATA, SO--

THHHBBPPPT!



LOOK, NO
OFFENSE TO OLD
UDDERS HERE, BUT
THIS IS STUPID. THE REBS
TOMB-SQUATTED ON
YAVIN, SURE--

--BUT EVEN
THEY'RE NOT
DUMB ENOUGH
TO DO IT
AGAIN.



LET'S HOPE
YOU'RE **WRONG**
ABOUT THAT,
DOCTOR.

YOU RECEIVED THIS
POSITION AS **REWARD**
FOR YOUR SERVICE TO
THE EMPIRE, BUT AS OF NOW,
YOUR **USEFULNESS** DEPENDS
ENTIRELY ON IDENTIFYING
HIDDEN TRACES OF
CIVILIZATION.

AND--
DOCTOR?



ABOARD
THE **EXECUTOR**,
BEING **USEFUL** IS
THE **ONLY** WAY
TO SURVIVE.

MAN YOUR
STATIONS,
GENTLEMEN.



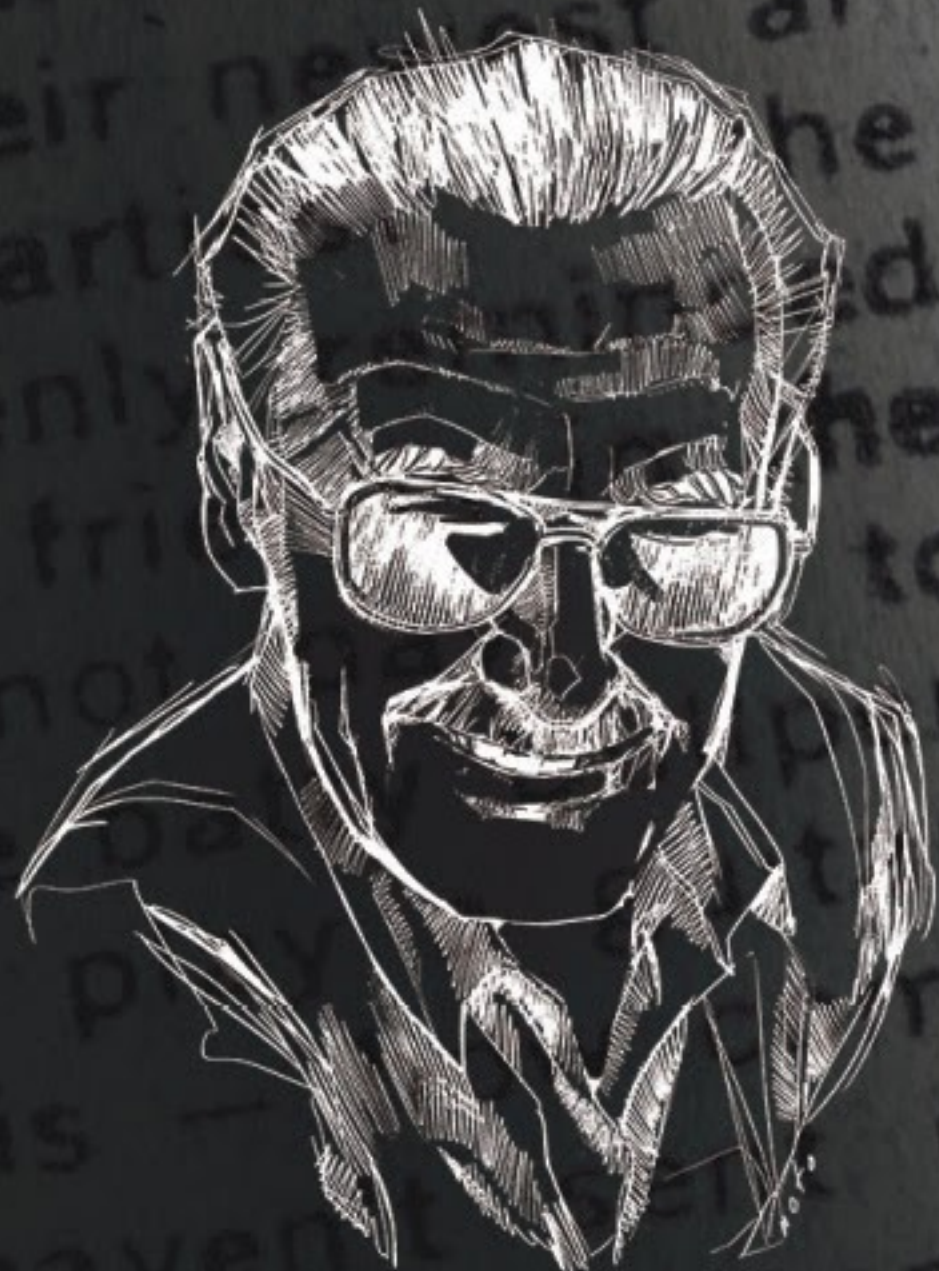




STAN'S SOAPBOX

Every time one of our sagacious super-heroes guest-stars in another mag we get bombarded with the same type of complaints from Marvel-dom. Assembled! "How can Thor be fighting litterbugs with Nick Fury when he's in outer space with Winken, Blinken, and Nod in his own mag?" Or "How can Captain America be trapped by Aunt May in Spidey's mag when he's running a school for teen-age dropouts in his own swingin' stanza?" So, we have two choices. Either we stop crossover guest-starring, or we ask you to permit us a little literary license. If the doings of one of our repertory players in his own mag doesn't seem to jibe with his cameo appearance in some other mag during the same month, let's just say that one story took place a few days before, or after the other, and let it go at that, huh? Anyway, we'll try it for a while and see how it shakes you! (And, if the aforementioned has in any way confused you — welcome to the club!)

Excelsior!
Smiley



STAN LEE
FOREVER

since moving out there, Jolly JACK KIRBY has been working faster than ever and is actually getting ahead of his super-human schedule! This means he may have time to handle still another mag within the next year. So here's your chance to sound off again, faithful one! Which strip is most worthy of the Master's touch? Should we finally launch the INHUMANS? DR. DOOM? KA-ZAR? Or, do you have some other oldie or newie you'd like him to bring to life? Sock it to us, sweetie, and we'll let you know how the mail keeps coming in!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SHADOWS #1: Marvel's new mag! Tales of weird witch-

Blake on earth one of Loki! Greatness!

HULK #119: On skinned rampageous might of the band of evil in dish, this one's

IRON MAN #1 Midas — the man and an LMD with Tony Stark — a der we call it End!"

SUB-MARINER which will take birth — only the very star far-out scher

CAPTAIN MA a colorful n our space-b tire Kree C sinister sec

SHIELD # Fury — bu hostile ho on the tr Thrill foll

DR. STRA nity — a master c most po A catac

SGT. FU is a ca Klaue! home A gas

CAPT. wond it's s field own

MAP Mar of t and Da M



NATURALLY. I AM THE FOREMOST ARCHAEOLOGIST IN THE SECTOR.

LOOK.

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT, PROFESSOR?



EH. TOTAL WASTE OF TIME. Y'KNOW, YOU HAD ME WORRIED THERE, UD.

THAT ARCHITECTURAL FOOTPRINT IS TOTALLY WRONG F--

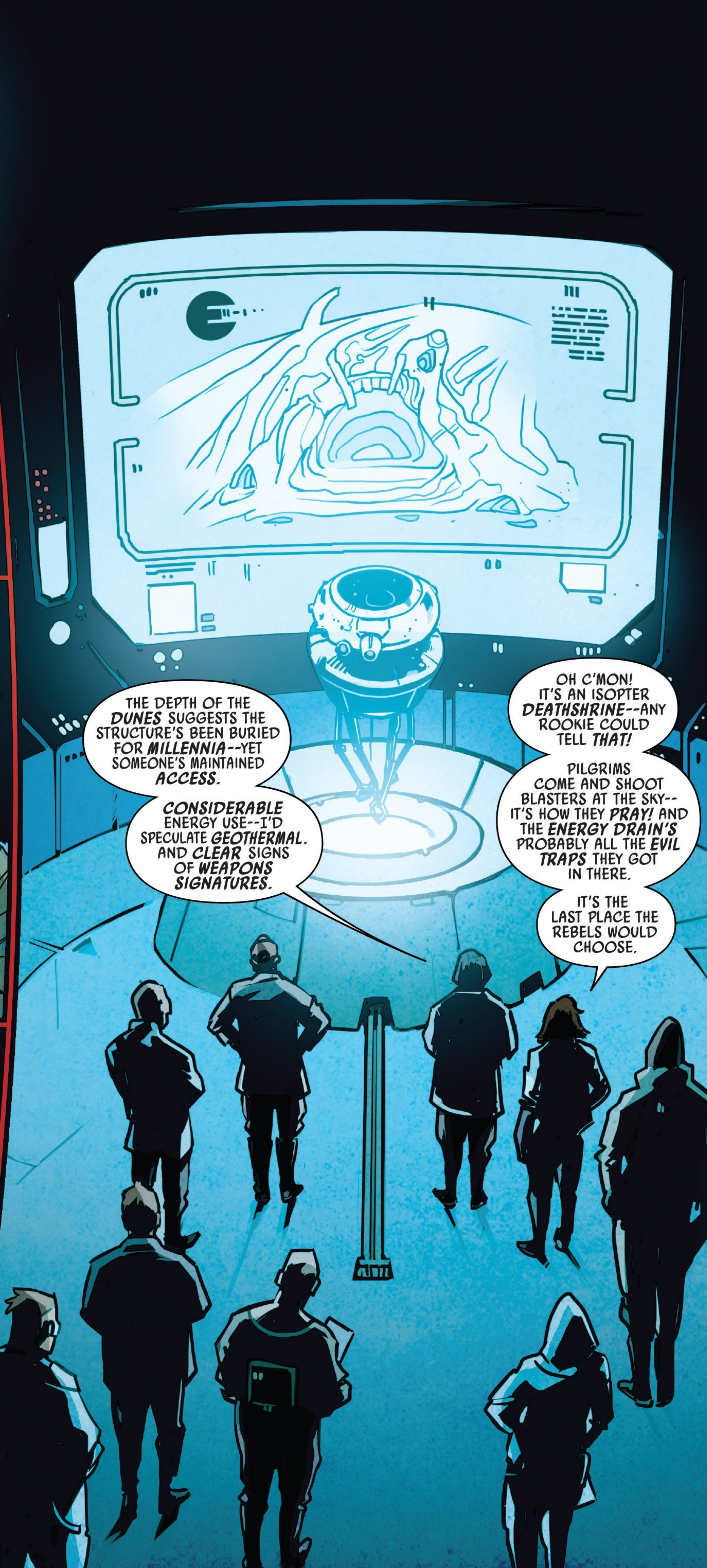
CLK



A VIPER DROID IN THE KARTOVIAN FORMATION, GENERAL.

WE LOST CONTACT WITH IT OVER THE FIRST ASH MOON. LOOK AT THE TELEMETRY:

ZZZ



THE DEPTH OF THE DUNES SUGGESTS THE STRUCTURE'S BEEN BURIED FOR MILLENNIA--YET SOMEONE'S MAINTAINED ACCESS.

CONSIDERABLE ENERGY USE--I'D SPECULATE GEOTHERMAL. AND CLEAR SIGNS OF WEAPONS SIGNATURES.

OH C'MON! IT'S AN ISOPTER DEATHSHRINE--ANY ROOKIE COULD TELL THAT!

PILGRIMS COME AND SHOOT BLASTERS AT THE SKY--IT'S HOW THEY PRAY! AND THE ENERGY DRAIN'S PROBABLY ALL THE EVIL TRAPS THEY GOT IN THERE.

IT'S THE LAST PLACE THE REBELS WOULD CHOOSE.



PREPARE A GROUND CREW, PROFESSOR. WE CAN'T IGNORE ANY LEADS.

ZZZ



WAIT--A FIELD MISSION? A-AS IN NOT BEING COOPED UP WITH VADER?

WHAT OF IT?



THAT IS DEFINITELY THE REBEL BASE, AND I'M DEFINITELY COMING WITH YOU.

The Kartovian Formation.
Ash Moon 1.
Four Hours Later.



NOTHING,
GENERAL VEERS.
THE REBELS WERE
NEVER HERE.

HM. I SUPPOSE
WE MUST INFER
THESE *PILGRIMS*
SHOT DOWN OUR
DROID?



HAVE THE PLATOON USE
THEM AS TARGET PRACTICE.
ANKLES AND KNEES. WE
MAY AS WELL SALVAGE
SOME USE FROM THIS
EXPEDITION.

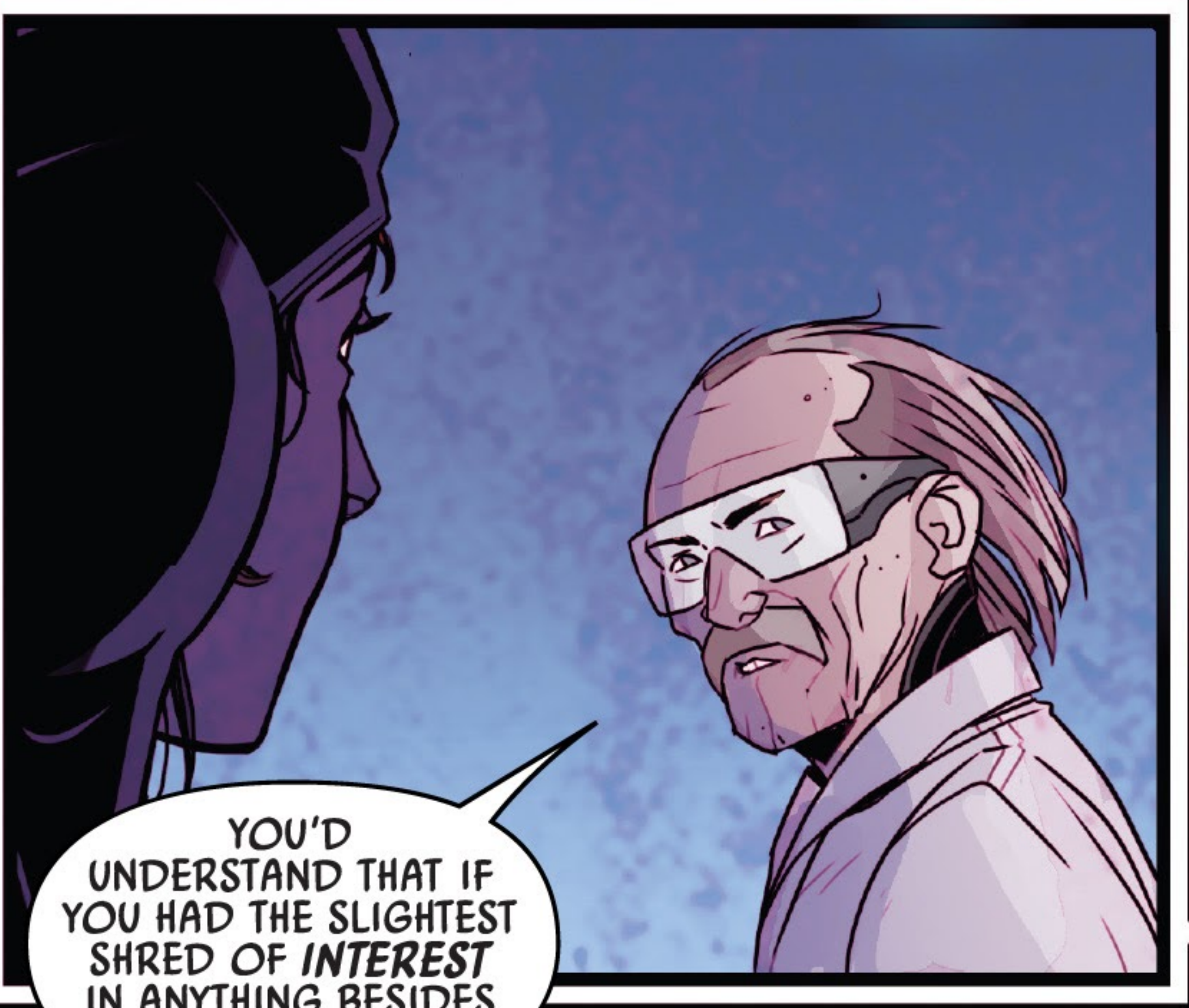
WHAT'RE *YOU*
LOOKING SO SMUG
ABOUT, UD? THIS IS
A SPECTACULAR
SCREWUP.

TTT. BLIND
AS WELL AS
OBNOXIOUS.



YOU REALLY THINK I *CARE* ABOUT THE REBELS? TRY TO WRAP YOUR TINY BRAIN AROUND WHAT PROJECT SWARM *TRULY* IS, APHRA:

THE GREATEST *ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY* EVER UNDERTAKEN. THE *SECRETS* WE UNCOVER WILL OUTLAST THE DREARY *UPS AND DOWNS* OF REGIMES AND REBELLIONS ALIKE.



YOU'D UNDERSTAND THAT IF YOU HAD THE SLIGHTEST SHRED OF *INTEREST* IN ANYTHING BESIDES *YOURSELF*.



THAT GUY'S A REAL *NERF BOTHERER*, HUH?

WORSE THAN THAT. HE'S GOT *PRINCIPLES*.



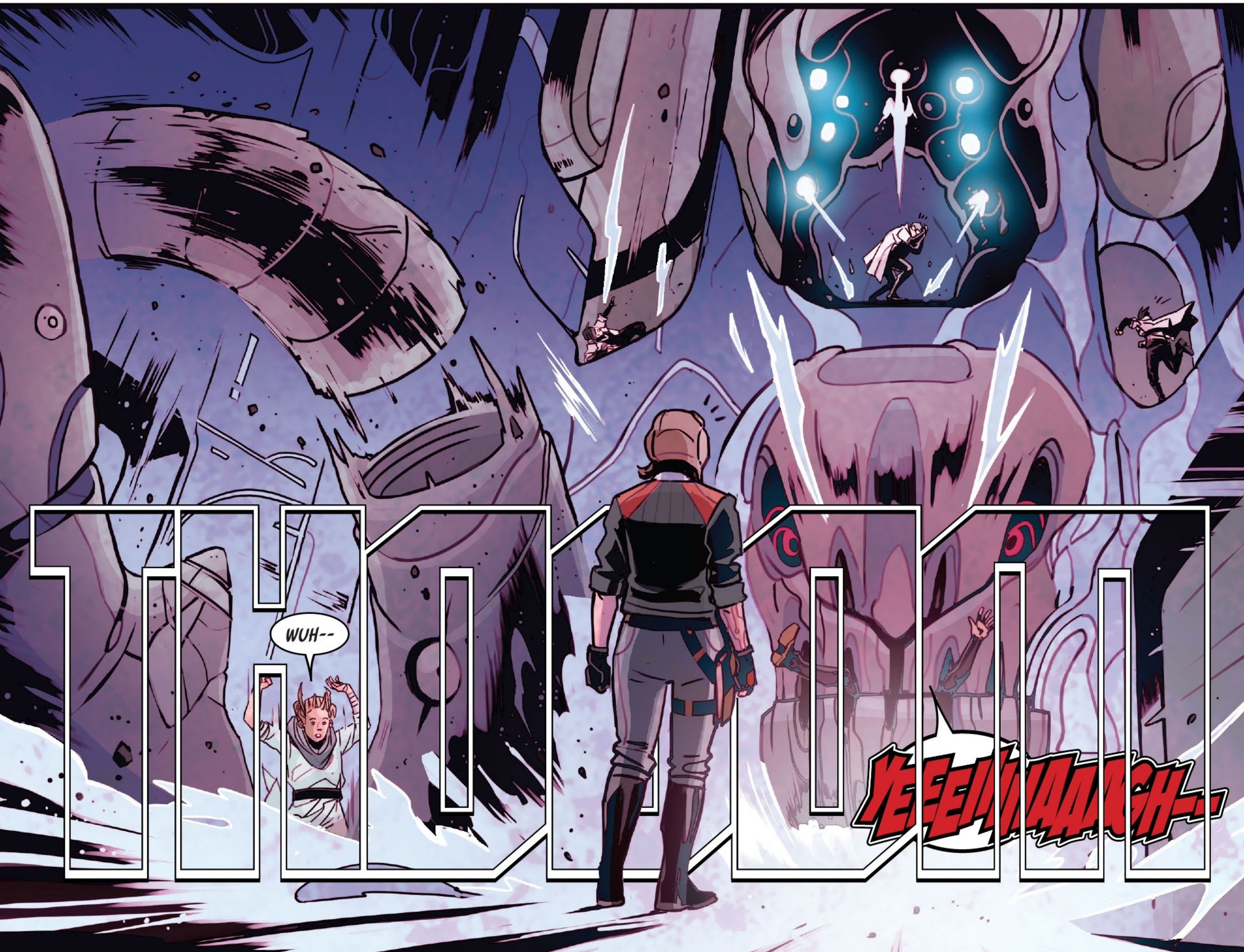
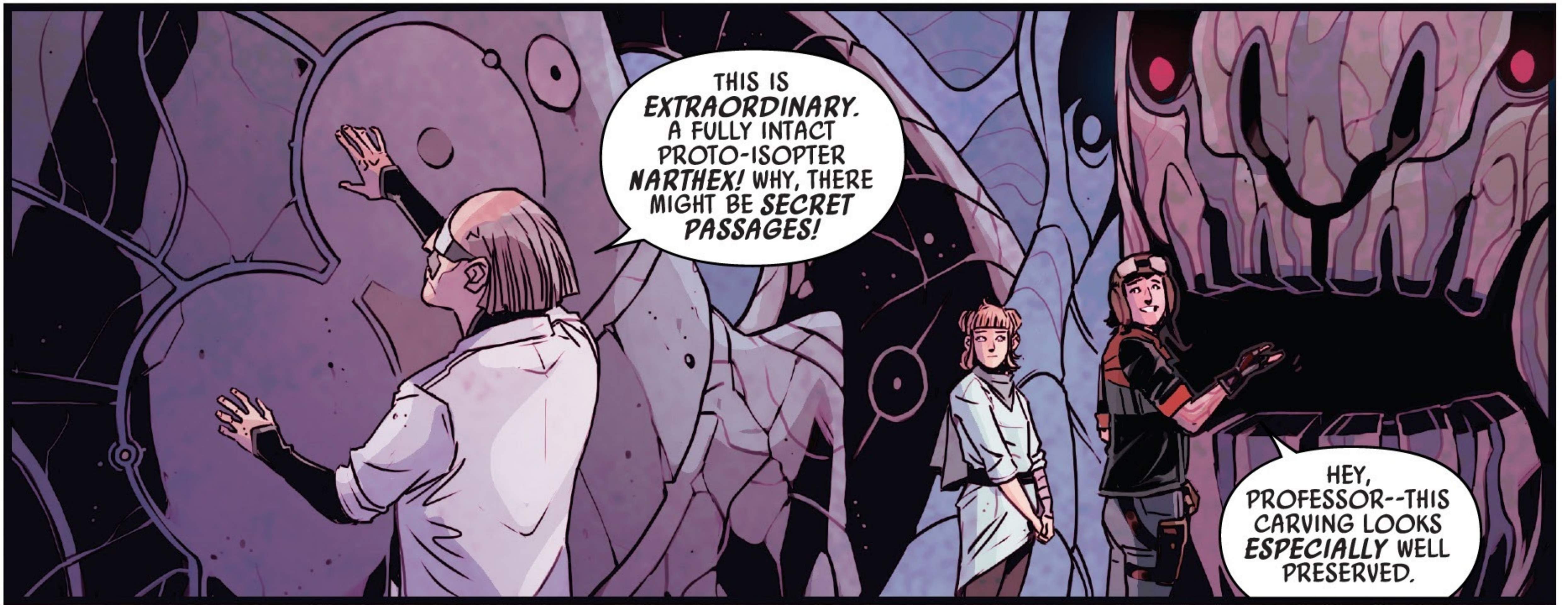
LISTEN, VULAADA--EXACTLY HOW GRATEFUL *ARE* YOU THAT I BROUGHT YOU *ALONG* OUT HERE?

GRATEFUL? YOU *LOST* MY MONSTER AND GOT ME *CONSCRIPTED*! YOU WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE REMEMBERED I *EXIST* IF I DIDN'T *BEG* YOU TO BRING ME!

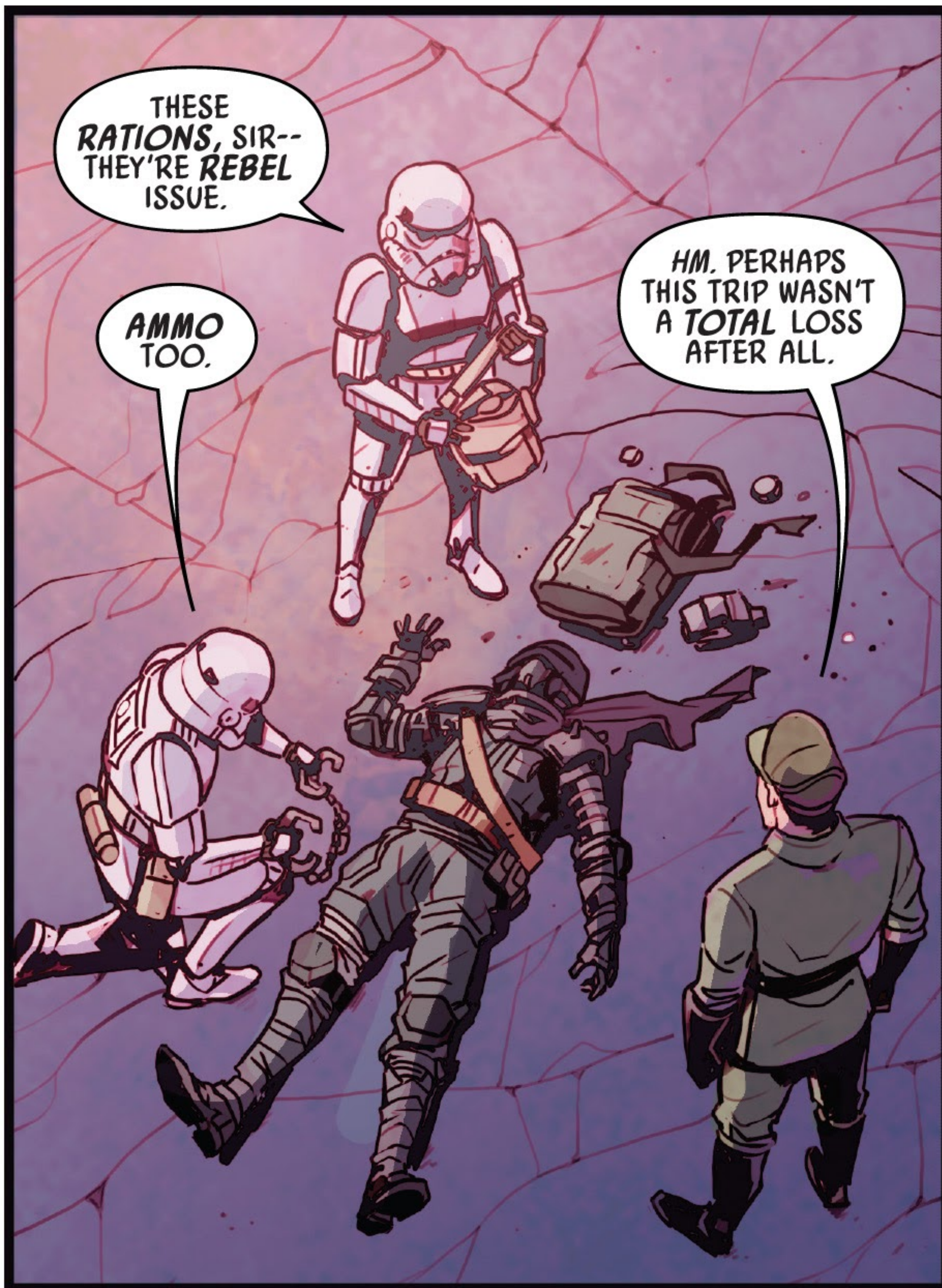
THEN YOU *ADMIT* I DID YOU A FAVOR?

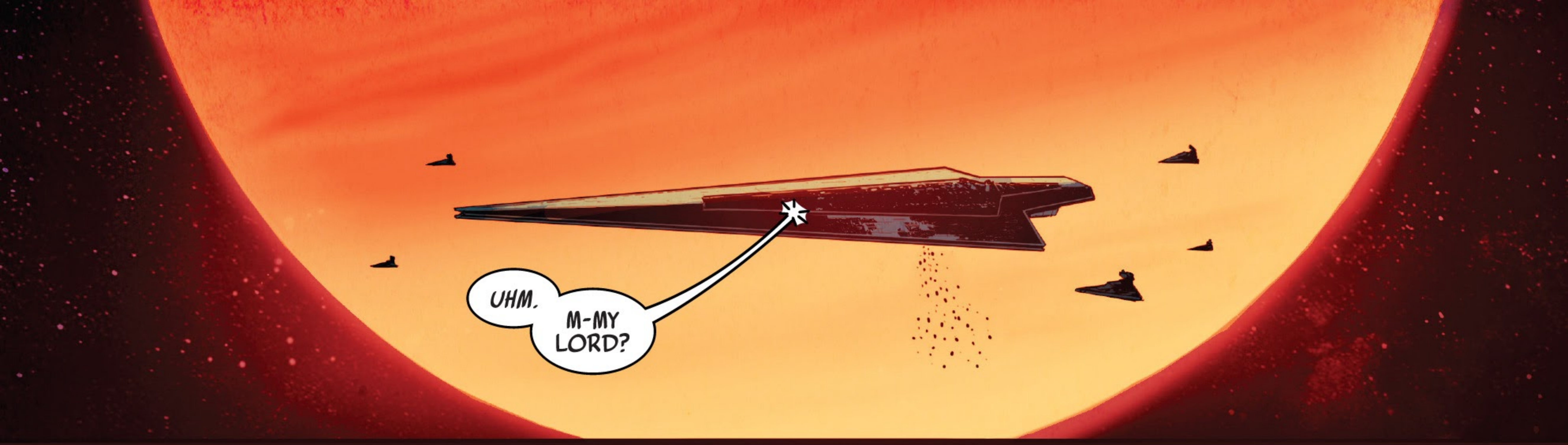


=SIGH= WHAT DO YOU WANT?

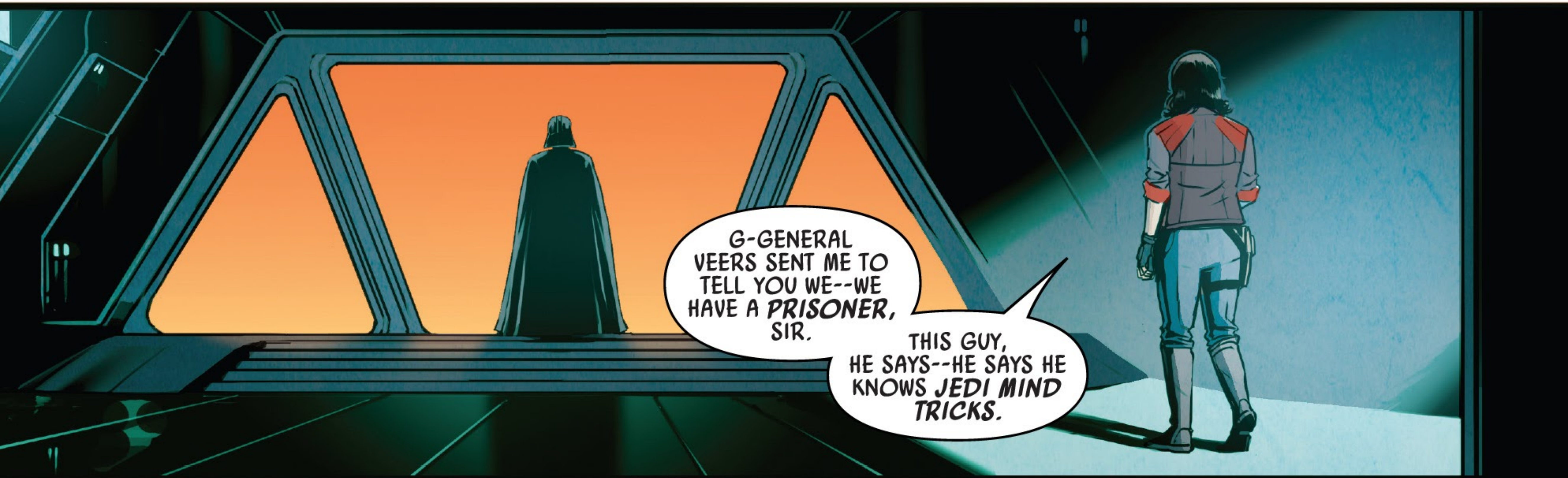








UHM.
M-MY LORD?



G-GENERAL
VEERS SENT ME TO
TELL YOU WE--WE
HAVE A **PRISONER**,
SIR.

THIS GUY,
HE SAYS--HE SAYS HE
KNOWS **JEDI MIND
TRICKS**.

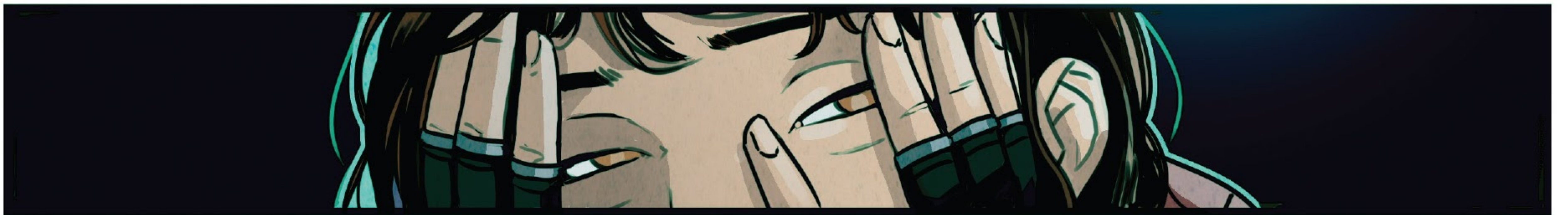


I, UH...I
GUESS I THOUGHT
MAYBE THERE'S A CHANCE
IT MIGHT BE--Y'KNOW. THE
KID. THE **FARMBOY** YOU
SECRETLY W-WANTED
ME TO FIND.

SKYWA--



I DIDN'T SEE
HIS **FACE**! I DIDN'T
SAY ANYTHING TO
ANYONE, I **PROMISE**!
I **PROMISE** I--





WHERE IS THE REBEL BASE? YOU WILL TELL ME OR YOU WILL DIE.

HKK! HACCKKHH!

SLOWLY.



V'RAA KRO-THA HAAM, TIKH MESH VROIL.

"THE SHADOW IS A PRODUCT OF THE LIGHT, HENCE CANNOT QUENCH IT."



TH-THAT'S A JEDI APOTHEGM.

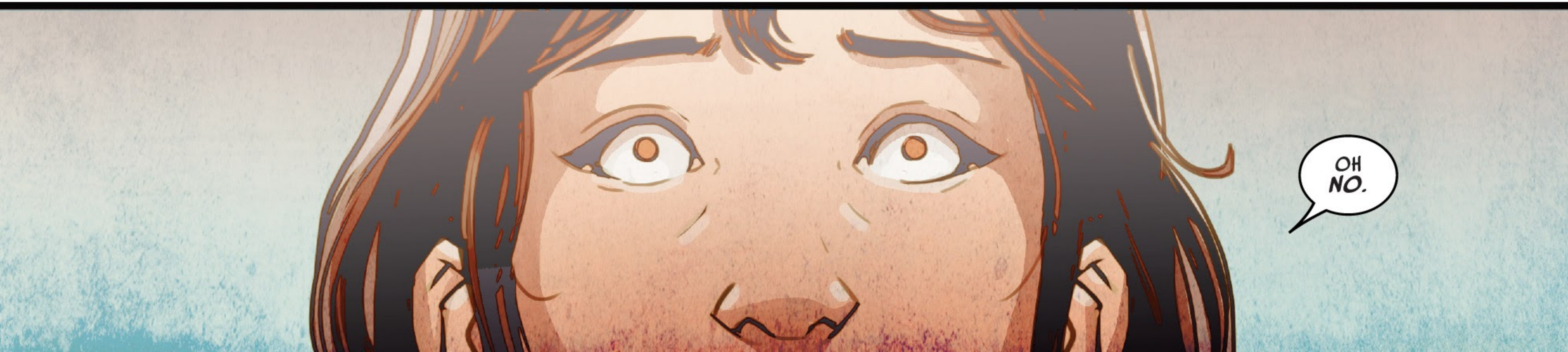
SEAL THIS DECK, GENERAL. BRING ME THE INTERROGATION SPECIALIST.



SPECIALIST? SINCE WHEN DO YOU NEED A SP--



FLUTT



OH NO.



LITTLE
BOOP?

H-HEY,
DAD.

To Be
Continued...

DOCTOR APHRA NEXT ISSUE!



A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com to make it into a future letters page. Mark your notes "OKAY TO PRINT." If the Force is truly strong with you--tweet us! #aphracomic and #oktoprint

Anthony Fish '19